

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew McConnell on 8/12/10. The application has been amended as follows:
2. In claim 1, line 16, "relative to the frame;" has been replaced with -- relative to the frame, wherein the at least one support extends from the frame toward the vehicle component; --.
3. In claim 1, line 20, "upper edge of the vehicle component;" has been replaced with -- upper edge of the vehicle component, and wherein the vehicle engaging member is movably interconnected with the support at a location spaced from the frame toward the vehicle component, wherein at least a portion of the support is located between the vehicle engaging member and the frame; --.
4. In claim 5, line 13, "engagement means;" has been replaced with -- engagement means, wherein the at least one support extends from the frame toward the vehicle component; --.
5. In claim 5, line 15, "support, wherein" has been replaced with -- support, wherein the vehicle engaging member is movably interconnected with the support at a location spaced from the frame toward the vehicle component, wherein at least a portion of the support is located between the vehicle engaging member and the frame, and wherein --.

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6. In claim 10, lines 16-17, "items of equipment; at least one vehicle engaging member" has been replaced with -- items of equipment; at least one support interconnected with the frame above the lower engagement means, wherein the at least one support extends from the frame toward the vehicle component; at least one vehicle engaging member --.

7. In claim 10, lines 21-22, "engaging member is interconnected with the frame via a pivot connection that defines a transverse pivot axis;" has been replaced with -- engaging member is pivotally interconnected with the support via a pivot connection that defines a transverse pivot axis at a location spaced from the frame toward the vehicle component, and wherein at least a portion of the support is located between the vehicle engaging member and the frame; --.

8. In claim 32, lines 14-15, "items of equipment; at least one pivotable vehicle engaging member" has been replaced with -- items of equipment; at least one support interconnected with the frame above the lower engagement means, wherein the at least one support extends from the frame toward the vehicle component; at least one pivotable vehicle engaging member --.

9. In claim 32, line 16, "lower hook arrangement," has been replaced with -- lower hook arrangement, wherein the vehicle engaging member is movably interconnected with the support at a location spaced from the frame toward the vehicle component, wherein at least a portion of the support is located between the vehicle engaging member and the frame, and --.

Election/Restrictions

10. Claims 3 and 14 allowable. Claims 15, 23-26, 30, and 31, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, include all the limitations of an allowable claim. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(a), **the restriction requirement between inventions I and II, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 6/24/09, is hereby withdrawn** and claims 15, 23-26, 30, and 31 hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin M. Larson whose telephone number is (571)272-8649. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9a-5p (EST). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Newhouse can be reached on (571) 272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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/Justin M Larson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3782
8/30/10